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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 343. APRIL, 1935.

TRUTH. LIBERTY. RELIGION.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty."—II. Cor. iii., 7.

CONTENTS:

OBITUARY	...	...	38	THE ROMANCE OF SUMMER TIME—G.V.C.	...		41
TEMPERANCE	...	...	39	DOMESTIC MISSION	...	...	42
REV. J. H. EWBANK, B.A., B D.	...	...	40	REPORTS.	...	...	43

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Laymen's League.

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BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,
35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.
MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec
19 Lime Street, Belfast

NEWRY.

The general work of the congregation continues. Several new members have joined us since the beginning of the year, and five more names were added to the Stipend List on Sunday last, (St. Patrick's Day).

The Guild Dramatic Society presented three plays in Newry and one in Warrenpoint, and were received with such enthusiam that early in April they intend to run two plays for two successive nights. Already the sale of tickets would seem to indicate packed houses. A Publication Committee has been formed and will shortly produce No. 1, Vol. 1, Church and Guild Magazine. The Debating Section paid a visit to Stanhope Street on Wednesday, 27th February, to debate the question "That partition of Ireland should be abolished." Through several people not voting and the Chairman refusing to cast his vote, a draw was the fitting result, 31-31. The Guild wish to thank the Mission and York Street friends for their kind hospitality.

We are looking forward to the return visit of Stanhope Street Debating Team in April. There have been several interesting debates he d this winter, and not least was the interest taken, when the Section became an Appeal Court and several budding lawyers argued learnedly and long. The Guild besides engineering a Surprise Party at the Manse, presented Rev. J. and Mrs. McCleery with tokens of esteem and best wishes, and also ran a special Benefit Concert in the Schoolroom to celebrate a recent wedding.

The annual Sunday School Prize Distribution was held on 26th February. This was an outstanding event. Mrs. E. Henning made the actual distribution, and it is noteworthy that her connection with the school has been well maintained for over 70 years. The School has recently been re-organised and three new teachers have been introduced. A Teachers' Training Class meets every week at the Manse.

The annual Congregational Meeting was held on 13th March. It was preceded by tea kindly dispensed by ladies of the congregation assisted by a band of willing stewards. Next Miss Warnock, on behalf of the congregation, made a beautiful presentation to Rev. J. and Mrs. McCleery. All reports were satisfactory, and a Star Scheme was introduced. Items by several artistes, and the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem concluded an excellent meeting.

WARRENPOINT.

Good attendances are being maintained in this lovely little church every Sunday at 3-30 p.m.

We beg to report a most e njoyable annual party held early in January last. The party commenced with tea and refreshments, and led up through games and songs and recitations to a presentation of toys, etc., to the large number of children present.

On Sunday, March 3rd, a special meeting

was held after the usual service. Mr. Robt. Kerr occupied the chair. He called upon Mrs. Mitchell to make the presentation of a beautiful chimes clock to Mr. and Mrs. McCleery. This clock was the gift of the congregation and friends in Warrenpoint. Mr. Thomas Brown then made an excellent speech and Mr. and McCleery replied thanking them all for their very great kindness.

We beg to report also that the Rover Scout Crew, of which Mr. McCleery is the leader, have taken over the vestry of the church and already have installed a stove, a cupboard, a bookcase, folding table, curtains, etc.

OBITUARY.

Rev. Alexander O. Ashworth.

A link with the distant past, and a centre of genial kindly influence, has been withdrawn from the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church by the passing of the Rev. Alexander Osborne Ashworth on March 12th, 1935. A ministry extending back to sixty-five years held memories of work faithfully and efficiently fulfilled in a wide and varied experience. A scholarly thoughtful minister, as preacher and pastor he won the affection and reverence of his charges, especially of his last congregation, where his active ministry lasting twenty-two years terminated in 1913. Even to within a few days of the close of his life he was wonderfully alert both in mind and body, and for many years during his retirement supplied pulpits and took an active part in the work of the Antrim Presbytery, and in the Ministers' Meeting of which he was one of the original founders. Prior to his ministry at York Street, he held the pastorates successively of Chatham, Stalybridge, South Shields. He received his theological course at the Home Missionary College, Manchester. J.B.

BODEL-MACKENZIE FUND.

The Report for 1934, which is the eleventh, shows that in September six new names were added to the beneficiaries Collections were Belfast (First) £6 7s 4d, Holywood £12 9s 3d, Newtownards £1 10s 0d. Four beneficiaries receive grants of £20, four of £15, eleven of £10, and seventeen of £8 per annum. Hon. Sec.—Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A., Hon. Treasurer—Mr. W. McRobert, Assist. Sec.—Rev. D. J. Williams, Hon. Auditors—Messrs James Orr and John Mackenzie.

LINDSEY PRESS PAMPHLETS.

Members of our Non-Subscribing Churches, especially the youths, are as a rule eager to work for the cause. They realize there is an essential difference between the Free Church and the Creed bound Church; are proud to have found themselves in the former; and desire to 'make it known.

In 35, Rosemary Street is to be seen just such material as will help those who are thus strong in the Faith and would help others to appreciate its saving powers. To the writer there have been pamphlets of the past issued by the Lindsey Press not quite so helpful in this way. They were useful, but the flag-waving of the purely Unitarian banner tended to irritate many. Modern pamphlets for the most part escape this by a larger charity; and are extremely valuable.

The three latest should be in the hands of all—priced at 1d each. They are:—"Unitarians and the Bible" by H. G. Chancellor, "Unitarian Christianity and Social Progress" by J. W. Peterken, and

But the pamphlet (31 pages) that I would most strongly recommend is "By a Way I knew not, a story of a Personal Experience." It is anonymous as are so many of the best writings. The 'paper' was originally addressed to a P.S.A. meeting in connection with our Essex Church Kensington. Its key note is to be found in the very first sentence:—

> "I have sometimes felt tempted to envy those who, like most of you here, were brought up in the faith which a friend of mine has called 'the most beautiful in the whole world,' instead of having to fight for it and win it little by little in the grown-up years."

Although it has been useful to some of the Postal Mission inquirers it serves also as a gentle rebuke to those who are already in the fold of the Free Christian Churches and seem not to appreciate the privilage.

Remember the title "By a Way I knew not" and get it when next in the Depository.

P. Godding.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Thou turnest man to destruction and sayest —Return ye children of men—Psalm xc. 3.

TEMPERANCE.

Alcohol and Physical Fitness.

There is a widespread be'ief, supported by advertisements in the newspapers and placards on the hoardings. that alcoholic drinks give strength for work, increase endurance, ward off fatigue, and sustain health. Weight is given to this view by the feeling of well-being and comfort experienced after a moderate quantity of intoxicating liquor has been imbibed. The increased depression that follows is generally forgotten, or perhaps the escape for even a short time from the cares and troubles of the present, and the anxieties, fears and responsibilities of the future, is regarded as ample payment. There is also the appearance of robustness and of vigorous physical solidity that is often worn by drinkers and this seems to supply proof that alcohol is good.

The driver of a brewer's dray is generally of powerful physique and of ruddy complexion, and carries more flesh than the average man in the street. But it is well-known that men of that type do not make a satisfactory recovery from accidents. A mere scratch on the leg, instead of closing and growing smaller, will spread into a sore, which, in spite of medical treatment, will refuse to heal until the entire body is brought into a dangerous state.

Appearance as well as sensations is often deceptive. The chief reason why one man is stronger than another of the same size is that his muscles are firmer and harder. Here is what Dr. Richardson says in this connection —" It has been found that men who have a great deal of work to perform of a muscular kind, men who have to march like soldiers, to walk long distances against time, or to row with great force and rapidity as boat crews do—all such men carry out their work much better when they avoid every drink containing alcohol. If two men of equal age, skill and build, were to contend in a feat of strength, and one of them indulged in alcohol and the other did not, the chances of success would be altogether on the side of the abstainer, other things being equal. Through every muscle of the alcohol-drinker that would be called into action by the contest, the bad influence of the alcohol would be felt, but through none so much as the great central muscle on which all the rest depend— the heart."

The muscles of the body are under the control of the nerves. Experiments carried out by doctors of the highest qualifications, under conditions that made mistakes impossible, have shown that alcohol interferes with the speed and accuracy of the reflex action of the nerves, and therefore makes it very difficult, if not impossible, for the muscles to give the highest results. The muscles of the eyes respond more slowly, and prevent their being focussed on some object that suddenly comes within the range of vision, and an accident, maybe fatal, is the result. The effect of alcohol on the speed with which a finger can be moved to and fro has been tested, and it was found that a glass of beer has a retarding effect. Perfect co-ordination of hand and eye is necessary to good shooting.

A man called Ira Paine was at one time the champion pistol shot of the world. Dr. F. L. Cheshire tells us that he witnessed a most remarkable display of Paine's skill and daring in Carlisle. An assistant placed a grape upon his head, aim was taken at about twelve paces distant, and the grape was smashed by the bullet. A visiting card was now borrowed, and the assistant extended his three fingers across it and held it up. Paine fired three shots making three holes in the card between the fingers without touching the skin. Paine was a total abstainer.

An interesting experiment was carried out by Dr. Durig to find the effect of alcohol on the muscular effort put forth in climbing a hill. On some days a quantity of alcohol was given equal to that contained in a pint and a quarter of beer. On other days no alcohol was given. Otherwise the conditions on all days were alike. It was found that although the walker felt in himself no difference between his condition on the alcohol and non-alcohol days, the distance and ascent per minute were on the alcohol days less by twelve to fourteen per cent. than on the non-alcohol days.

An experiment on somewhat similar lines was carried out by Dr. Parkes at Netley with young soldiers of the same age. He divided them into two gangs, and promised them extra pay according to the amount of work done. One gang was allowed beer, the other was not. For the first hour or two the alcoholic gang went ahead, but soon grew tired, and at the end of the day were far behind the others. This was repeated for some days. Then the alcoholic gang begged to be transferred to the non-alcoholic gang in order to make more money. Dr. Parkes declined, but instead transposed the gangs, the men who had so far had beer were now allowed none, and the others who had so far

been abstainers, were given the beer. The results were the same. The gang with alcohol went ahead at the start, but failed utterly towards the end of the day. The gang without alcohol accomplished far more work.

Alcohol does not promote physical fitness, but makes it impossible.

Bradman and Hobbs and Sutcliffe tell the same story. Health, length of life, and success are all promoted by abstinence. Where there's drink there's danger.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

THE REV. J. H. EWBANK, B.A., B.D.

It is with very deep regret, which we have good reason to believe is shared by ministers and laity alike, in the N. S. Presbyterian Church, that we learn of the resignation of the Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.D. of Mountpottinger. Mr. Ewbank holds the very responsible office of Clerk of Synod, and in the Church courts has given valuable help in the deliberations. His resignation will take effect at the end of June. Mrs. Ewbank will be greatly missed in the denomination. Her pulpit ministrations, at times given in extremity at a moments notice, have been highly valued, and the Women's League will feel the loss of her presence among them, very keenly. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank have the affection and esteem not only of the Mountpottinger Congregation, but of a much wider circle beyond its borders

At Oldham, Lancashire, which like other neighbouring big towns, closely clustered together, has become practically an extension of Manchester, there is a large and vigorous congregation, with an exceedingly fine Sunday School. The work is carried on with Lancashire heartiness, and we are justified in expecting every success, from Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank's presence and work, in that important congregation.—ED.

REV. JOHN McCLEERY AND MRS McCLEERY

With acknowledgment to Newry Telegraph.

MARRIAGE

McCLEERY—BURRELL—At Hackney Unitarian Church, London, on Saturday, February 16th, 1935, by the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew (Belfast), assisted by the Rev. C. H. Bartlett, B.A. (Hackney)—John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., Minister, Newry, to Doris Mable, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burrell, Appleby Road, London.

Residence: The Manse, Camlough Road, Newry.

DEATH.

ASHWORTH—March 12th, 1935, at his residence, Marsdene, Cyprus Park, Belfast, Rev. Alexander Osborne Ashworth, in his 89th year, Minister Emeritus of York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. Interment at Killinchy New Meeting House Green, March 14th.

THE ROMANCE OF "SUMMER TIME."

William Willett was born at Farnham in 1857, the eldest of three sons. His father achieved great success as the designer and builder of some of the most beautiful specimens of domestic architecture in London and the South of England. Both father and his famous son were guided by the principle that the excellence of every art must consist in the complete accomplishment of its purpose. The son inherited, if possible, more than his father's energy, for it was chiefly due to his untiring efforts that the business proved so successful. In each district the name of Wm. Willett is a household word among all those who know anything about artistic house building. A Willett-built house is known by the imprint of excellence of design, good materials in its construction, and high-class workmanship. The imposing "Willett building" in Sloane Square, London, which cost over £100,000, is a fine example of combined business and residential premises.

His love of light and open spaces are apparent in all his work. He must have early learned the Italian proverb—"Where the sun does not come, the doctor does.

In a glorious summer morning, the sun having risen in majesty, the birds chanting their morning hymn, ihe trees all gilded by the sunlight, Mr. Willett, who was an early riser, was taking his usual early morning walk across the breezy uplands near his charming home at Chislehurst, and was enjoying to the full the sweet morning air and the bright sunshine. On his way home he observed with sadness that the blinds were still drawn in most of the houses, and he pondered how it was possible to bring his fellow men to enjoy more of the light of day and the glorious sunshine which had to so many been lighting up the earth with beauty in vain.

Suddenly the idea was born! *Put forward all clocks one hour during the Spring and Summer months of the year, and put them back again each Autumn!*

Mr. Willett was not merely a dreamer, his character was one of active beneficence He embodied his idea in a Bill which Mr. R. Pearce, M.P., introduced in the House of Commons in 1908. "The Bill," he wrote, "proposes to utilise during the Summer months some of the early morning sunlight which is now often wasted while we sleep, and therefore to obtain one hour more of sunlight in the period between cessation of work and bedtime." The Bill passed its second reading, and was referred to a Select Committee, which reported favourably on it, but did not reach the final stages in the House of Commons. But Mr. Willett persevered in his task, sparing neither time nor money in the prosecution of it. In the following year a similar Bill was brought forward by Mr. T. W. Dobson, M.P., and was also referred to a Select Committee, which reported against it by a majority of one. Subsequently, repeated efforts were made during Mr. Willett's lifetime, but without success. One of its most ardent supporters was the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., when he was Home Secretary, and he prophesied that a grateful posterity would raise statues in honour of Mr. Willett and decorate them with sunflowers.

In the early months of 1915, while travelling in Spain Mr. Willett caught a cold, and he died on 4th March at his home at Chislehurst, in his 58th year. For eight years he had done his utmost to get his scheme adopted, and passed away without seeing his hopes fulfilled—Hope, which looked so near realization when the first Select Committee reported so favourably on the scheme. But the man who lives for an idea, for his country and the good of humanity is upheld by the nobleness of his task. To do something to make others happier and better is the highest ambition, the most elevating hope which can inspire a human being, and this it was which sustained Mr. Willett to the last.

Mr. Willett's sacrifices were, however, not in vain. The great European War brought home to the nations the importance of economy and in the Spring of 1916 the scheme was adopted by several European countries, and England, which should have been first to do so, followed suit, a Bill being rapidly passed through Parliament and the Act came into force on the 21st May, 1916. The Sundial in Kew Gardens on Monday, May 22nd, 1916, turning Poet, sang—

For scores of years you know how I
Have marked the hours with iron finger;
And with my partner in the sky
Have hurried Time when he would linger.
What power can change time when I will it,
And *Echo quickly answered* "Willett."

I stand for truth, the clocks all *lie*,
The sunny hours alone I number,
And let the sombre ones go by
While on my pedestal I slumber.
But that won't change the time. No! Will it;
And Echo shouted back, "No, Willett!"

Mr. Churchill's prophecy is being fulfilled, as indeed it deserves to be, for Mr. Willett has proved himself to be a noble benefactor to the human race. "There were many statues to famous men in London, but no one

deserved that posthumous honour more than Mr. Willett." By the Summer Time Act of 1925, "Summer time begins at 2 a.m. (Greenwich time) of the Sunday after the third Saturday in April, or if that is Easter Sunday, after the second Saturday in April. It ends at 2 a.m. (Greenwich time) of the Sunday after the first Saturday in October.

Not only is there a Sundial Memorial to William Willett, but on visiting Pett's Wood in Kent you will pause and read on a Memorial Stone erected in 1927 this inscription—

"This Wood was purchased by public subscription as a tribute to Wm. Willett, the untiring advocate of Summer Time.

Each hero soul, each martyr heart
In earth's deep pain has borne his part,
And every triumph in the skies
Has helped man's unpledged soul to rise."

In gratitude therefore to the author of Summer Time, on Palm Sunday, April 14th, we will sing of William Willett—"Thou art gone, the abyss of heaven hath swallowed up thy form; yet, on my heart deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast given, and shall not soon depart." G.V.C.

Belfast Domestic Mission.

On Sunday, March 3rd, large congregations gathered in the First Church, Rosemary St., in the morning and in All Souls' Church at night to hear the Rev. Herbert J. Rossington, M.A., B, D., preach the Annual Sermons on behalf of the above Mission. Taking as his theme the social challange of Religion and constructive Christianity Mr. Rossington said that the signs of the times for churches and missions were distinctly reassuring and encouraging. Christianity, which they wished to proclaim and see prevail, was more of a positive and constructive nature than ever before. Following in a cycle, they had come to a constructive period, and it would never be possible to go back to the old conditions. They had almost unconsciously advanced.

"There is an attempt,' he said, "to do away with criticism and controversy. We are now beginning to count our blessings and our positive increase in knowledge of the world and of God. We are entering into a great legacy and a great opportunity. All religious bodies, even the most conservative, are moving on. Even the fundamentalists do not maintain the truth that was, in their proclamations of to day. Christianity must have something positive in it and old barriers must be swept away.

The Medical Supt. Officer of Health, Dr. C. S. Thomson, D.P.H., B.Hy., M.R.C.P. (Ed)., presided at the Annual Meeting held in the Central Hall on Monday afternoon and in moving the adoption of the reports read by Mrs. E. R. Jackson, Hon. Sec., Mrs. Leith, Hon. Sec. Ladies Committee, and Rev. William Eakin, Missioner, and the Balance Sheet presented by Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Treas., said that the founders of the Mission, had they been there that day, would have found that they had 'built better than they knew," for it was such beneficient agencies as the Mission which were responsible for the great advance of society at large.

"Medical men" he said," were chary of referring to spiritual matters, but co-operation in this matter was needed between clergy and the medical profession, or the latter would find their work handicapped. Medical men should have the courage of their convictions, that, not in virture of their training only, were they able to assist nature to cure disease. There was something greater behind it, the power of the Everlasting Arms, which they ought not to be ashamed to acknowledge. As medical officer of health he welcomed spiritual healing, though he did not go as far as some of the clergy. It would be very difficult to cure organic disease by spiritual healing but a wide field was not yet explored and it should be explored in co-operation by clergy and doctors, otherwise it might fall into the hands of people who would trade upon the ignorance of susceptable people"

The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D. The committee was elected on the motion of Mr. Kenneth Moore, seconded by Mr. R. J. Prenter.

On the proposal of Miss Armstrong, seconded by Mr. R. M. Laird, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Rossington for his presence and for preaching the annual sermons.

The Rev. S. P. Whitehouse, B.A., voiced the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, the Rev. J. A. Kelly seconding.

E. M. Jackson, Hon Sec.

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **20th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

Ainsoph the One manifests as *Kether* the Crown, the Bliss Aspect of Deity, and the root of the will in man; also as *Binah*, Intelligence, the Consciousness Aspect, the root of Cognition in man; and as *Chokma*, the Universal Mind, the Existence Aspect, the root of activity in man—*Kabala*.

REPORTS.

Raloo.

Albert Larmour, aged 13 years, who secured First Prize in the junior section at the Sunday School Conference last year for essay on "How best to help my Sunday School," has gained First Prize for Mouth Organ Competition at the Larne Musical Festival, Samuel Bradford and Alexander Moore, gained third and fourth place respectively.

J. McC.

Ballycarry.

The Annual Service of the Ballycarry Branch of the Women's League was held on the 3rd Sunday evening in February. There was a large congregation present. The Choir rendered a special hymn of praise. The Moderator—Rev. Dare Davies of Moneyrea, occupied the pulpit and delivered a discourse which was greatly appreciated by all the congregation. The Sermon was well thought out and the interest maintained the whole way through. A social hour brought the proceedings to a close.

Killinchy.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation took place on Tuesday, February 19th, 1935, at 7 p.m., in the Lecture Hall, when a good company of members and families along with the Teachers and Scholars of the Sunday School were present. The ladies had provided the Annual Tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by the old and the young. The Rev. D. J. Williams presided at the Annual Meeting, and hoped that all the company would have an enjoyable and happy evening together. He reviewed certain features in connection with the year that is past. He was able to congratulate the younger members of the Church for their devotion to the institutions of their Church, and congratulated them on their regular attendance as the worship of God, which augurs well for the future of the Church. He would be gratified if more distant members, who are good supporters, will respond to his appeal to make an effort to attend to the worship of the Church.

Old and faithful members have passed away during the period in review. We remember several members who have died, Mr. Wm. McBride a faithful supporter whose death was least expected. Another faithful member passed away from us in Mr. Thomas Wilson, a constant attender at worship until his health failed. Lately a tried and faithful member in Miss Mary Jane Bailie who, until weakness overcame her, was a constant worshipper and communicant. Another member and generous supporter was the late Mr. George Davison, a representative of an old and faithful family connected with the Church, and lately, at a great old age, Miss Mary Houston died and was buried in the adjoining Green.

The Balance Sheet for the year 1934 was presented to the Congregation by the Secretary, of the Church, Mr. Hugh Kelly, on behalf of the Treasurer, was received and accepted.

The officers for the next twelve months were thanked for their services for the past year. During the evening Books for regular attendance during 1934 were presented to the young people and children of the Sunday School by Miss McMaster, an old teacher of the Sunday School.

The School Children entertained the company with songs, recitations, dialogues and a small play entitled, "Patricia's Pranks." The children, without exception, did their parts remarkably well, were highly praised by an appreciative audience, many of whom had looked forward to the entertainment

All Soul's, Belfast.

Sermons for Domestic Mission were preached on Sunday, 3rd March. The Rev. Wm. Eakin, Missioner, preached in the morning, and in the evening Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., of Birmingham, taking as his subject "Constructive Christianity." The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, was held on the 13th March.

Hollywood Branch Women's League.

The final meeting of the present season was held on March 12th, when Mrs. A. Stewart Wilson gave us a most interesting paper on Modern Women. She pointed out the importance of modern women in the scheme of modern life and that she is a great factor for the promotion of peace in the world and the furthering of all plans for the betterment of social conditions. The meeting closed with the usual social cup of tea and conversation.

The First Church, Belfast.

The Annual Sunday School Prize Distribution took place on February 19th. The Superintendent of the School, Mr. Robert McCrum presided after tea had been partaken of by scholars and friends. First came a variety programme in which Recitations were given by Harold McCafferty, Dorothy Wood, Aileen Hutton, Mildred McCafferty,

dances by Peggy Elms, and action song by a number of the younger scholars, and a short play "The Cricket Match" by members of the Junior Rosemary Dramatic Society. Then Mr. Robert Harkness distributed 45 prizes including 7 special prizes for perfect attendance to Ella Ellis, Isobel Green, Phyllis Hutton, Willie McKee, Jim McCullough, Nellie McCullough and Willie McMurray.

Mr. McCrum and the minister, the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, expresed deep regret that Mr. Harkness had to give up his work as a teacher in the Sunday School, and paid a high tribute to the services he had rendered not only in that capacity but also to the church where he acted on the General Committee, the Music Committee, the Envelope Offertory Committee as well as a leader in the Rosemary Dramatic Society. He had been one of the best workers at Rosemary Street, and earned genuine esteem for his high character and sound judgment. Mr. Harkness is officer of the Labour Exchange in Newtownards and will soon be taking up his residence in this town. After the prize distribution the children spent a happy evening in games.

Thanks are accorded to Miss Nan Newman and Miss McKelvey who trained the members of the Junior Dramatic Society and to Miss Jean Newman, Miss McCullough and Miss Aleson Kennedy who acted as accompanists.

Belfast Domestic Mission.

The Report presented at the 82nd Annual Meeting, on March 4th, 1935, is one of which any congregation might well be proud. The report itself is clear and concise, and what one would expect from the very efficient Honorary Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Jackson. The Mission has the good fortune to have the able ministrations of the Rev. W. Eakin, and the list of meetings for a week provides for every grade in the congregation. Actual contact with the Mission itself, however, conveys a clearer idea of the work done, than can be furnished by any report however excellent.—ED

On February 27th, our Debating Society welcomed a large group of young people from Newry Guild, with Rev. J. and Mrs. McCleery in charge.

An interesting debate took place between the teams chosen by the respective groups. This was followed with close attention by the large audience which was so evenly divided in their voting that the result was a draw. Our young people will pay a return visit to Newry at an early date.

A special service was given by the choir and pupils of the Sunday School on the afternoon of March 3rd. An interesting address was given by Mr. J. Totten, and a number of musical items were contributed by the children. Epidemics of measels and scarlet fever have reduced our Sunday School attendance somewhat during the past month, but we are glad to know none are serious cases, so that we hope to see all the children in their classes soon. The Sunday evening service is proving of special interest, due in a large measure to the bright attractive music and the formation of the male quartette.

If any of our friends have used magazines or other reading matter, we could make good use of same in our club room.—W. E.

Moneyrea.

The Dramatic Society closed their season on Tuesday evening, February 19th, with a sumptuous tea in the Old School, which was provided by the gentlemen, and which was followed by music and dancing. At this function which was presided over by Mr. James Frame, the guests of honour were Mr. and Mrs. T. McAuley, who were presented with a handsome lamp on the occasion of their marriage. Mr. Frame made the presentation and referred to Mr. McAuley in connection with the society. Mr. McAuley made a very able speech in reply, thanking the members for their generosity and wishing the Dramatic Society every success.

The treasurer of the church has received from the executors of the late Mrs. S. Bennett's will, a bequest of £50.

Mrs. Sarah Bennett, widow of Mr. James Bennett, of Solitude, passed away on Oct. 2nd, last year in her 84th year, at Woodhill, Ballygowan, the residence of her nephews and niece. She was a prominent member of Moneyrea congregation, taking an active interest in all its affairs all her days. Many years ago, she was principal of Tullygirvan school She was well known and highly respected by all classes and creeds.

Clough.

The annual social and distribution of prizes in connection with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Sabbath School was held on the 15th March in the Presbyterian Church Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the Kirk Session. After tea the Minister presided, and referred to the unusual amount of sickness among our scholars, which materially affected the programme and prevented an interesting scene from "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

being given that evening. He then called upon Mr. H. M. Ferguson, Drumcaw (a retired schoolmaster with 40 years' experience of boys and girls) to present the prizes. Before doing so Mr. Ferguson gave a short and interesting account of the origin of Sabbath schools, and complimented the teacher (Miss Mollie Hay) on her faithful services throughout the year. The programme was under the direction of Miss Vera Nelson, Annadorn, and Miss May Fisher (organist) and was as follows: Pianoforte selections, Meta Hutton, Ballyduggan; songs, Georgina Kirkpatrick and Stanley Nelson; dialogue, "Calling for the Rent," Elsie and Stanley Nelson; recitations, Carol Wilson, Nan McCoubrey, Pat Russell, Martha Murtagh, Mary McCoubrey. The latter gave two little poems composed by Mrs. Haslett, Annadorn (a member of the congregation), entitled, "The Forget-me-Not" and "The Spider," which were greatly appreciated for their simple beauty and imagination. A short dramatic children's play, "Dick Whittington and his Cat," was then very well performed by Cyreno, Stanley and Elsie Nelson, Mary McCoubrey, Sadie and Lily Newell, Martha and Joyce Murtagh. On the motion of the Rev. James Shaw Brown and seconded by Mr. Anthony Donnan, the best thanks were given to the Clough Presbyterians for the use of the hall.

Mountpottinger.

It is with regret we have to record the passing of two of the older Members of the Congregation in the persons of Rev. A. O. Ashworth, who had associated himself with us since he retired from duties at York Street, and Miss Jane Allen, whose membership dated back a considerable period. Suitable reference to the latter was made from the pulpit at the morning service on March 10th, whilst the death of Mr. Ashworth was announced to the members by the Chairman at the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, March 13th, a vote of sympathy with Mrs. and Miss Ashworth being passed in silence, all standing.

The Annual Meeting was presided over by Mr. L. Watters and was better attended than on some occasions. The Financial Statement showed that by the exercise of certain economies the Church had just about paid its way during 1934. The various Officers were re-elected, and a Committee appointed, which included the three ladies who in their first year of office had shown themselves to be very valuable members.

Following the business, light refreshments were served by the local branch of the Women's League, who thus placed the Congregation under an additional debt of gratitude for their excellent work during 1934, when they were instrumental in raising nearly £100 for the Church Funds. A musical programme followed, to which the following contributed items:—Miss M. Keith and Master L. Watters, pianoforte duet, songs by Mrs. J. Allen, Miss Elva Orr, Master G. McCullough and Master W. Watters. Mr. H. Shepherd (organist) and Master L. Watters acted as accompanists.

On Friday, March 15th a Concert in aid of the Church Funds was given by the pupils of Miss Eileen Pearce and Mr. H. Shepherd, when an audience of goodly dimensions had quite an enjoyable programme of pianoforte solos and duets, songs, recitations and humourous sketches. With 30 items on the programme it would be inviduous to single out any particular one, since all made their special appeal to the audience.

Our sincere thanks are given to the promoters. Our Minister, Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.D., has placed his resignation in the hands of the Church Committee in view of acceptance of an invitation to fill the vacancy at Oldham, Lancashire. With regret has the Committee accepted the resignation which will take effect at the end of June.—E.R.J.

Crumlin.

The recent Broadcast (March 5) from the Farm Kitchen at Lambeg was of special interest to this congregation. We had hoped that Mr. Joe Stewart (one of our oldest members) would be in the Broadcasting party, but not being quite fit at the time he was unable to go. He and his household at the Creme Hill have been very helpful to the Lambeg Irish Folk Dance Society in reviving, preserving and teaching the almost forgotten songs and dances of this countryside. His absence on the night of the Broadcast was consequently a big disappointment to the promoters of the programme. We believe it gave pleasure to Mr. Stewart to know that three of his friends, namely, Mr. Read and Mrs. Price-Jones and Mr. George Aiken, were present with the party, except during the actual Broadcast.—G. P. J.

First Church, Belfast.

On Sunday night, March 10th, a special Service was held in commemoration of George Frederick Handel, the great composer, in connection with the 250th Anniversary of his birth, at Hallê, Germany, on February 23rd, 1685. The Rev. R. Nicol Cross outlined the

story of his life, commenting on his precocious musical talent, the opposition he had to overcome in developing it, his immense industry and productivity, all through life, his settlement and varied experiences of success and failure in England. From the story there emerged the lineaments, not only of an outstanding musician, but of a truly great man of strong, upright, resolute character, one who proved a match for the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, "who fell to rise, was baffled to fight better," and at the end was deemed worthy of a place in Westminster Abbey among England's honoured sons.

He composed many kinds of music and among the large number of Operas and later Oratorios that came from his inspired genius, the "Messiah," would itself claim the profound gratitude of the Church for its powerful moving appeal to the heart of Christendom.

In the course of the Service Mr. Albert Taylor, the Organist, played a Minuet from "Samson," from which also the Anthem by the choir "Let their Celestial Concert" was taken. Mr. J. Laird rendered "Arm, Arm ye brave," from "Judas Maccabaeus," Mr. D. Houston, "Total Eclipse" from "Samson" and Miss V. Gordon, a Solo set to the "Largo." The Hymn "Rejoice, the Lord is King" was sung by the Congregation to Handel's tune "Gopsal."

The Concert very kindly provided by the Church Organist Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M. A.R.C.M., on March 19th, was the finest we have heard in the Central Hall for a long time and was in every way a success, being largely attended. Groups of songs were rendered by Mr. S. Weir M'Cormick, Miss Dora Chancellor, and Mr. R. M. Kent, Violin Solos by Miss Edna Alexander, Piano Solos by Mr. Taylor, and Recitations by Miss Nora Kirkwood, L.G.S.M. All again proved themselves to be highly accomplished Artistes, and delighted the audience. Miss V. P. Curran, L.R.A.M., now happily restored to health after a serious illness, enhanced the songs by her skilled and sympathetic accompaniments on the piano, kindly supplied by Messrs. Vincent & Son. It was remarked that the high quality of the Concert recalled the old days of the First Church when its membership was rich in musical talent available for such occasions. Mr. Taylor is to be congratulated on his efforts, the proceeds of which will go to the reduction of the Church debt due largely to heavy outlay on renewing the Electric light installation in the Central Hall.

On Easter Sunday Night, April 21st, there will be a Musical Service, when Selections will be rendered from Gaul's Cantata "The Holy City." On Sunday, March 31st, at 7 p.m. Selections from Spohr's "Last Judgment," are being given by way of Special Music.

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WILL BE PREACHED ON

Sunday, April 7th, by the Rev. Dr. Agnew.

Morning—FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST.
Subject—"The Need for our Free Church."

Evening—FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BANBRIDGE.
Subject—"Pure Christianity."

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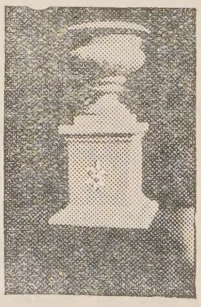

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